Message Text

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SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

1. PSYCHOLOGICAL: JAPANESE MEDIA ATTENTION TO FOREIGN POLICY RELATED EVENTS WAS DIFFUSE THIS WEEK. SAUDI OIL FIELD FIRE CAUSED BRIEF SHOCK, FOLLOWED BY RENEWED STRESS ON NEED FOR IMPROVED COMPREHENSIVE JAPANESE ENERGY PLAN. APPARENT RESOULUTION OF MAJOR JAPAN-SOVIET DIFFERENCES ON FISHERY AGREEMENT PRODUCED JOY IN FISHING PORTS AND 5/18 HEADLINES THAT GOJ HAD CONFIRMED SETTLEMENT. 5/19 HEADLINES THAT KREMLIN HAD HIT GOJ NEGOTIATORS WITH NEW LAST-MINUTE IMPORTANT CHANGE REFLECTED RENEWED FRUSTRA-TION AND PIQUE. MEANWHILE, REPORT ON MONTHLY JIJI PRESS OPINION SURVEY CONDUCTED APRIL 10-13 SHOWED NUMBER OF PERSONS NAMING USSR AS NATION DISLIKED TO BE AT NINE-YEAR HIGHOF 44 PERCENT--UP ELEVEN PERCENTAGE POINTS IN ONE MONTH. SAME POLL SHOWED PERSONS NAMING U.S. AS COUNTRY THEY LIKE AT SEVEN-YEAR HIGH OF 33 PERCENT, WHILE FOUR PERCENT SAY THEY DISLIKE U.S.--AB OUT SAME OVER PAST SIX MONTHS, BUT REPRESENTING 12-YEAR LOW PLATEAU. UNCLASSIFIED

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2. PROGRAM

A. RUTGERS URBAN POLICY CENTER PROF. GEORGE STERNLIEB SPOKE AT SAPPORO, OSAKA AND KYOTO AMERICAN CENTERS ON PROBLEMS OF CITY PLANNING IN U.S. AND FUTURE OF LARGE AMERICAN CITIES AS PROJECTED FROM CURRENT TRENDS. PRESENTATIONS WERE SUBSTANTIVE

AND COMPREHENSIVE. ABOVE-AVERAGE SIZE AUDIENCES WERE LARGELY GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL. RESPONSE WAS VERY GOOD IN OSAKA, WHERE UN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER DIRECTOR HONJO MODERATED. PREFECTURAL HEADQUARTERS CO-SPONSORED SAPPORO PROGRAM. AUDIENCE RESPONSE IN Q AND A SESSION WAS DULL; BUT CO-SPONSORS SAID PROGRAM WAS USEFUL FOR GOVERMENT AND PRIVATE PLANNERS. THEY PLAN TO PUBLISH AND DISTRIBUTE TRANSCRIPT. KYOTO PROGRAM WAS QUITE SUCCESSFUL.

B. ILLINOIS UNIV. ECONOMIST RICHARD KOSOBUD SPOKE AT OSAKA AND NAGOYA AC'S ON"AVOIDING ECONOMIC CONFLICT AMONG U.S., JAPAN AND EC." IN OSAKA AUDIENCE WAS MEMBERSHIP OF CO-SPONSORING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF KANSAI FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS ORGANIZATIONS (KANKEIREN). KOSOBUD MADE EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION, BUT OSAKA BUSINESSMEN FOCUSED IN Q AND A ON MORE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF JAPANEC ECONOMIC RELATIONS. IN NAGOYA ACADEMIC AND BUSINESS AUDIENCE PRODUCED BETTER BALANCED DISCUSSION, WHICH RAN CONSIDERABLY OVERTIME. IN TOKYO, KOSOBUD WAS TEAMED WITH EMBASSY SCIENCE COUNSELOR BLOOM ON TOPIC OF U.S. ENERGY POLICY. LARGE AUDIENCE OF SPECIALISTS HEARD USEFUL DESCRIPTION OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL BACKGROUND ASPECTS OF NEW USG ENERGY POLICY. Q AND A FOCUSED ON NUCLEAR ENERGY AND FUEL REPROCESSING ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY. TWO AMERICAN SPEAKERS EXPLAINED REASONS FOR HOLDING BACK ON DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD USE PLUTONIUM; BUT JAPANESE DISCUSSANTS TENDED TO RESIST ACCEPTING THE ARGUMENT.

C. OREGON STATE UNIV. ECONOMICS PROFESSOR MURRAY WOLFSON, HAD THREE DAYS OF PROGRAMMING AT FUKUOKA AND KYUSHU UNIVER-UNCLASSIFIED

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SITIES, TALKING WITH ACADEMICIANS AND GRAD STUDENTS ON CURRENT TRENDS IN ECONOMIC RESEARCH IN U.S. HE WAS COGENT AND EFFECTIVE, CONCEDED STRONG POINTS OF MARX THEORY BUT STRESSED HIS FALLIBILITY. DISCUSSION SESSIONS WERE EXTREMELY LIVELY, AVERAGING 90 MINUTES. PROGRAMS PROVIDED AC WITH HIHGLY USEFUL ENTRE TO MARXIST-DOMINATED ECONOMICS FACULTIES OF THESE UNIVERSITIES.

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